(b) The Government of Karnataka has sought exemption only to the weaver workers of the Corporation from the purview of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

(c) The request of the State Government was examined and it was found that their case does not qualify for exclude a few workers of an establishment from the purview of Act. Moreover, the welfare benefits proposed to weaver workers are not comparable to the benefit available under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Special industries for women

4575. SHRI A. VIJAYRAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision that women workers are provided opportunities to work at night has been debated widely or examined by Indian Labour Conference;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether steps would be taken for the same;

(d) whether any decision is taken regarding the "Special Industries" in which women would be demanded to work night shifts,

(e) if so, the details of such industries,

(f) whether any rules are formulated for additional safeguards relating to physical security, transport, health and occupational safety before allowing women to work at night;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three meetings with the representatives of the employers and the trade union organizations were held in the past before it was decided to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 to allow employment of women workers between 7.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The amendment proposed is not Industry-specific. Therefore , no decision for any specific type of industry has been taken. However, the provisions of the proposed Bill provide for consultation with the representatives of employers and workers by the State Government or any person authorized by them before granting permission for night shift work by women.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The proposed Bill will empower the State Governments for allowing the necessary flexibility in employment of women during night shift in factories. The State Governments are already empowered for framing suitable rules under the Act. Therefore, such a decision will be taken by them.

(h) Does not arise.

Unemployment allowance

†4576. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for giving unemployment allowance to the unemployed persons is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the annual percentage of the growth rate in the number of unemployed people in the country along with the initiative being taken by the Government to put a check on this growth rate; and

(d) the likely number of unemployed persons at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country and the initiative being taken by the Government to bring it down?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) There is no scheme under consideration of the Central Government for giving Unemployment allowance to the unemployed persons.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.